



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Region to receive \$1.7 million aimed at creating new jobs in emerging industries, shortage occupations.

ANGOLA, Ind. (June 7, 2006) – Northeast Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state for \$1,768,246 to help develop and support the region's manufacturing, health care and logistics industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant awarded is part of the Daniels administration's Strategic Skills Initiative, a workforce development program begun last year. Stiver made the announcement at the 24th Annual Northeast Indiana Business and Industrial Conference at Pokagon State Park.

"On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to award this grant to help regional leaders grow and develop several key industries that have been identified as either having higher than expected growth or facing worker shortages," Stiver said. "We are very impressed with the vision and potential for growth expressed in the solutions that the region has focused on. The three areas that have been targeted -- manufacturing, health care, and logistics -- have great potential for above average growth in upcoming years."

The region has proposed six solutions, which will be funded from the state grant:

- *Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing* – Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing is a solution aimed at providing workers with access to curricula and training in advanced manufacturing. Emphasis will be on emerging occupations, such as computer numeric controlled manufacturing processes. The initiative will also support the increase in skills necessary to support continued growth in the medical device industry and other advanced materials industries in the region. The initiative will result in the training of 84 Hoosiers, earning of 151 certifications, and ultimate placement of at least 17 workers in shortage job occupations.
- *Registered Nursing & Clinical Placement Clearinghouse* -- The clearinghouse will result in a system that identifies all vacant and available clinical space throughout the region and connects Registered Nurses (RN) candidates with

job openings. In addition, new clinical sites will increase training capacity. The program is modeled after the SABRE system used in the airline industry. The initiative's goal is to place or promote 15 health care workers in shortage occupations.

- *Advanced Business Technology* – Indiana University Purdue University at Fort Wayne will develop a curriculum that focuses on next generation information technology such as radio frequency identification. A total of 171 workers will be trained in this initiative, and approximately 11 to 15 will be placed in shortage occupations.
- *Registered Nurse Career Ladder and Pipeline* – The Registered Nurse Career Ladder and Pipeline will focus on two primary segments of the region's labor force: Grant county workers who have been dislocated and the growing Hispanic population. The initiative will provide English as a second language training as well as nursing training. The career ladder and pipeline will increase the number of Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses by 50 within the region, fill a shortage occupation, and advance the skills of workers. A total of 200 nurses will be trained overall under this initiative.
- *Modern Logistics Training* -- This initiative calls for Ivy Tech Community College at Marion to deliver training for a new program focused on the next generation of logistics processes, technology, and practices. The Grant County Chamber of Commerce will work with the college and regional officials in this new program. The plan calls for 145 Hoosiers to receive training, 95 certifications earned, and 65 placed or promoted in shortage occupations.
- *21st Century Manufacturing Boot Camp* – Fifty participants, mostly students, will attend an intensive boot camp that will expose the students to advanced materials, robotics, and other advanced manufacturing techniques and processes.

The state's Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$262,477 was awarded to the region for research and to identify the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today's grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the Northeast Indiana Workforce Regional Board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state's economic growth Region 3. The region consists of LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, DeKalb, Whitley, Allen, Wabash, Huntington, Wells, Adams, and Grant counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

-30-

Attachment: summary of regional grant award

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Strategic Skills Initiative

Economic Growth Region 3



Mitch Daniels, Governor
Ron Stiver, Commissioner
June 2006

About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

About Region 3

- Population (July 2005)
740,654
- Labor Force (March 2006)
384,240
- Unemployment (March 2006)
5.6%
- Per Capita Income
\$28,142 in 2004

- Source: www.hoosierdata.in.gov

Counties in Region

- LaGrange
- Noble
- Whitley
- Wabash
- Grant
- Huntington
- Steuben
- DeKalb
- Allen
- Adams
- Wells



INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 3

Economic Growth Region 3 is comprised of eleven counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded in September of 2005 was \$262,477. The solutions allocation awarded in June 2006 for Region 3 is \$1,768,246. Methods used to define shortages, causes and develop solutions included: research; surveys; focus groups with incumbent workers, dislocated workers, service providers, multi-sector partners; and interviews with industry leaders and employer summits.

Key Occupational Shortages

Projection 2005-2007

Computer Controlled Machine Operators/ Machinists/Mechanics	490
Registered Nurses	304
Computer Systems Analysts	158
Industrial Engineers	75

Emerging Industries / Occupations

CNC-Operators, Machinists, Industrial Machinery Mechanics & Maintenance Workers

Computer Systems Analysts

Root Causes

- Employer Recruitment and Retention Practices
- Education and Training Capacity
- Access to Career Information
- Labor Force Leakage and Brain Drain
- Stress and Burnout
- Talent and Pipeline Issues

Identified Solutions →

Identified Solutions

1.

Solution: *Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing*

Dollars Allotted: *\$707,103*

Solution Description:

Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing will provide workers access to advanced manufacturing curriculum and training. The emphasis of training will be on emerging occupations, such as computer numeric controlled (CNC) manufacturing processes. Specialized curriculum and training will grow and support the medical device industry and other advanced material industries in the region. The Center for Excellence will grow skills for high-demand jobs in the region and within emerging occupations.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 84 Hoosiers trained
- 68 completing solution
- 151 certifications earned
- 17 workers placed in shortage job occupations

2.

Solution: *Registered Nursing & Clinical Placement Clearinghouse*

Dollars Allotted: *\$133,492*

Solution Description:

The clearinghouse will result in a system that identifies all vacant and available clinical space throughout the region and connects RN candidates with job openings. In addition, new clinical sites will increase training capacity. The program is modeled after the software system that revolutionized the airline industry.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 15 completing solution
- 15 registered nurses
- 15 placed or promoted in shortage occupations

3.

Solution: *Advanced Business Technology*

Dollars Allotted: *\$214,234*

Solution Description:

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne will develop a curriculum focused on next-generation information technology, including radio frequency Identification (RFID). Students will access to state of the art lab equipment and software. Trainees will develop skills in demand and pursue careers in shortage occupations.

Outcomes Proposed:

- 171 Hoosiers trained
- 11-15 placed in shortage occupations

Identified Solutions

4.

Solution: <i>Registered Nurse Career ladder and Pipeline</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$349,823</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>The Registered Nurse career ladder and pipeline will focus on two primary segments of the labor force: Grant County workers who have been dislocated and the growing Hispanic population within the region. This innovative approach will provide English as a second language training as well as nursing training. The career ladder and pipeline will increase the number of LPNs & RNs within the region, fill a shortage occupation, and advance skills of workers.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 Hoosiers trained • 50 completing solution • 25 Registered Nurses • 25 licensed practical nurses

5.

Solution: <i>Modern Logistics Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$302,394</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Ivy Tech Community College will deliver innovative logistics training through the development of new curriculum. The training will result in placements of trainees in shortage occupations.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 145 Hoosiers trained • 95 certifications earned • 65 placed or promoted in shortage occupations

6.

Solution: <i>21st Century Manufacturing Boot Camp</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$61,200</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>The 21st Century Manufacturing Boot Camp will raise the understanding and knowledge of skills needed for success in today's advanced manufacturing industry. Participants will be exposed to advanced materials, robotics, and other sophisticated manufacturing techniques and processes. This solution addresses root causes of occupational shortages.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 Hoosiers participating • 50 completing solution

Solution Totals

\$1,768,246

665 Hoosiers trained

311 Certifications or degrees

105+ in shortage occupations